

[1 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Service area, directions were issued to concerned service providers to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification.

Instructions have also been issued to all the mobile service providers on 22nd November, 2006 for re-verification of existing subscribers by end of March, 2007. Thereafter, if any number is found working without proper verification, a minimum penalty of Rs. 1000 per violation of subscriber number verification shall be levied on the licensee apart from immediate disconnection of the subscriber number by the licensee.

As per the recent report from the associations of mobile service providers, more than 13 lakh connections have been de-activated during the re-verification process.

Difficulties in acquiring Land

*58. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether to work out an action plan for the coal sector in line with the recommendations of the expert committee as spelt out in the Integrated Energy Policy, the Ministry has convened a meeting of the heads of all coal companies to discuss the difficulties faced in acquiring land and the problems associated with tribal land that limits open cast mining; and

(b) to what extent the meeting identified the reasons for current low performance of Coal India Ltd. washeries and the role of CIL in promoting coal beneficiation and to explore the ways of acquiring overseas coal properties by Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Coal with Chairman-cum Managing Director (CMDs) of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiary companies and senior officials of Ministry of Coal on 11/1/2007 at Kolkata to discuss various issues concerning Coal Sector particularly, in view of the demand projections made by the Committee on Integrated Energy Policy.

The issue of land was deliberated in the context of poor utilization of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery in certain mines and projects due to non-availability of land.

(b) The reasons identified for low performance of washeries in CIL were mainly due to depletion of good quality coking coal in Jharia Coalfield and declining availability of raw coking coal from the linked mines. Besides, many washeries are obsolete in technology and equipment life. Matrix of raw coal quality feed has undergone change and is below washery design parameters for handling.

To meet the above problem several initiatives for modernization/renovation of washeries have been taken up by coal companies in stages. The estimated investment requirement for modernization/renovation has been estimated as Rs. 185.1 crores. In addition, for promoting coal beneficiation, Ministry of Coal has issued necessary guidelines to coal companies to facilitate setting up of coal washeries by private sector. CIL is also exploring possibilities for setting up of washeries on Build and Operate basis.

CIL proposes to acquire properties abroad on its own as well as through joint venture arrangements with other Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Eradication of social problems

*59. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn any plan to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and unemployment from the country within a time-bound programme;

(b) if so, the details of the plan:

(c) whether State Governments have been requested to implement the plan of eradication of these social problems, within a time-bound period; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the response of the State Governments?